

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

I. Status of the Claims

Claims 1-14 were pending in the application. Claim 1 has been amended by way of this response. Thus, claims 1-14 are still currently pending and are at issue.

Claim 1 is amended, without prejudice or disclaimer, to recite the thickness of the inorganic film and to recite that the inorganic film further comprises an inorganic substance. Support for these amendments is found throughout the specification, e.g., at paragraphs [0017]-[0018].

No new matter is added by way of this response.

II. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claim 4 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Based on the above amendment to claim 1, applicants respectfully submit that claim 4 is now allowable.

III. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1-3 and 5-14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicants regard as the invention. The Examiner contends that the phrase “inorganic thin film” is indefinite because it is unclear what is meant by the term “thin.”

In response, claim 1 has been amended to recite the thickness of the inorganic thin film. Applicants respectfully submit that this thickness range clearly defines the metes and bounds of the claimed “inorganic thin film.” Accordingly, the present indefiniteness rejection has been addressed and overcome.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below if the Examiner believes any issue can be resolved through either a Supplemental Response or an Examiner's Amendment.

It is believed that no fee is required for these submissions. Should the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office determine that additional fees are owed or that any refund is owed for this application, the Commissioner is hereby authorized and requested to charge the required fee(s) and/or credit the refund(s) owed to our Deposit Account No. 04-0100.

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Respectfully submitted,

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